



Annual Report
2004

Rhode Island Rivers Council



Rhode Island Rivers Council Annual Report 2004

*“Working together to protect and restore
Rhode Island’s waters and their watersheds”*

INTRODUCTION

In 2004, bay, river and watershed planning became a priority for the highest levels of Rhode Island government. The Governor established the Narragansett Bay and Watershed Planning Commission. The Senate convened hearings on bay management and published recommendations for “Habitat-Based Management for Rhode Island’s Marine Environment.” The Rhode Island House Bay Trust Study Commission, established in July 2003, developed recommendations for improving coordination and efficiency of state watershed management. Based on this work, the legislature passed a suite of bills to strengthen the state’s management of our waters and watersheds. The Rivers Council statute (46-28) was strengthened, the Rhode Island Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Coordination Team was created (46-31) to coordinate and prioritize state watershed management activities, a comprehensive marine monitoring system was established (46-23), the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) was directed to quickly develop a nutrient management plan and the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) was directed to develop a marine resources development plan. This work recognizes the essential connections inherent in successful watershed management: connections between Rhode Island’s rivers and Narragansett Bay and its watershed, between Rhode Island’s economy and our natural environment, and between state management and local action and stewardship. Together we will restore our rivers and bays and protect the quality of life that makes our state a special place to live, work and play.

The Rhode Island legislature has long recognized the importance of locally led management and advocacy for rivers and watersheds and has provided financial support for local watershed organizations through the Rhode Island Rivers Council. In 2004, the legislature’s \$52,500 investment leveraged more than \$270,000 in outside investment and volunteer labor for river and watershed management throughout Rhode Island.

Council Members

Governor Appointments

Elizabeth Gowell
Stephen Kearns
Jane Sherman

Lieutenant Governor Appointments

Dante Ionata
Dale Grogan
Meg Kerr (chair)

Speaker of the House Appointments

Rep. Eileen Naughton
Rep. Scott Rabideau
Guy Lefebvre

Majority Leader of Senate Appointments

Sen. Elizabeth Roberts
Daniel Varin

Department of Environmental Management Scott Millar (vice-chair)

Coastal Resources Management Council Kevin Cute

Department of Administration Kevin Nelson

League of Cities and Towns Diane Feather

In 2004, the Rhode Island Foundation stepped forward with funds to support the Rivers Council. The Rivers Council is grateful for the Rhode Island Foundation's support for river and watershed management in Rhode Island.

This report summarizes the accomplishments of the Rivers Council and our nine watershed councils for 2004. The report includes our 2004 workplan annotated with accomplishments, our 2005 workplan and a full financial report.

RIVERS COUNCIL 2004 HIGHLIGHTS

2004 was a busy and exciting year for the Rivers Council. We strengthened and expanded the network of local watershed councils, providing grants, training and mentoring, built the grassroots coalition of conservation organizations and participated in state deliberations around river and watershed management.

Strengthen Local Watershed Councils

The Rivers Council hosted workshops for watershed councils in partnership with the Rhode Island Land Trust Council and the Rhode Island Association of Conservation Commissions (RIACC) on fundraising, and creating and sustaining committees.

Technical presentations at regularly scheduled Rivers Council meetings provided watershed councils with essential information on current state and federal programs. Presentations were given by staff from DEM, the University of Rhode Island (URI) Cooperative Extension Program, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, the Water Resources Board, the Rhode Island Monitoring Collaborative and the Rhode Island Land Trust Council.

In partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Conservation Law Foundation, URI Cooperative Extension Program, DEM and the Warwick Sewer Authority, the Rivers Council provided technical training on "Making optimal use of the Clean Water Act" to strengthen watershed councils as water quality advocates.

Rhode Island Watershed Councils 2004

Blackstone River Watershed Council

P.O. Box 8068
Cumberland, RI 02864

Buckeye Brook Coalition

P.O. Box 9025
Warwick, RI 02889-9025

Kickemuit River Watershed Council

90 Dexterdale Road
Providence, RI 02906

Narrow River Preservation Association

P.O. Box 8
Saunderstown, RI 02974

Pawtuxet River Watershed Council

Historic Pontiac Mills
334 Knight Street
Warwick, RI 02886

Salt Ponds Coalition

Box 875
Charlestown, RI 02813

Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition

P.O. Box 209
Wakefield, RI 02880

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

203B Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

Monohasset Mill Building
532 Kinsley Avenue
Providence, RI 02909

With funding from Third Sector New England, the Rivers Council worked in partnership with the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Rhode Island Chapter, the Rhode Island Land Trust Council, two watershed councils and two land trusts to explore back-office support for local conservation organizations.

Strengthen Grassroots Coalitions

The Rivers Council established a strong partnership with the Rhode Island Land Trust Council and RIACC. This partnership helped to strengthen the connections between land and water protection at both the grassroots and state policy level.

The first annual Land and Water Conservation Summit was held on March 20, 2004 at North Kingstown High School. The summit included 21 workshops on a range of topics and attracted over 200 participants from throughout the region.

Working in partnership with the National Park Service River and Trails program, the Rivers Council convened workshops to discuss strategies for achieving Fishable/Swimmable RI Waters. Our goal is to create a vision for fishable and swimmable rivers that is shared by all the watershed councils and then select technical and public relations strategies to achieve our vision.

The Buckeye Brook Coalition and the Salt Ponds Coalition were formally recognized by the Rivers Council in 2004, expanding the coalition of local watershed councils. They join the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, the Narrow River Preservation Association, the Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition, the Pawtuxet River Authority,

the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, the Blackstone River Watershed Council and the Kickemuit River Watershed Council in the Rivers Council partnership.

Strengthening Watershed Management Statewide

The Rivers Council completed revisions to the “Rivers Policy and Classification Plan” (State Guide Plan Element 162) which were approved by the State Planning Council on May 13, 2004. These changes add coastal waters to the Rivers Council policies, opening the door for the Salt Ponds Coalition and Buckeye Brook Coalition to be formally recognized.

The Rivers Council participated on the Rhode Island Water Resources Board’s “Water Allocation Program Advisory Committee” (WAPAC) which was charged with researching water allocation and making recommendations for program implementation. The WAPAC completed its work in 2004.

The Rivers Council works together with local watershed councils to build understanding and support for river and watershed management. We understand the importance of partnerships and appreciate the support of the Governor and our legislature. On June 16, 2004, the annual Rivers Council Awards Event honored Governor Carcieri, Senators Lenihan and Sosnowski and Representatives Naughton and Ginaitt for their vision and leadership in river and watershed management.

In July, the Rivers Council co-sponsored the 1st Annual Environmental Awareness Day at the Narragansett Town Beach. Participants from 32 environmental

organizations interacted with the Saturday beach crowd.

The Rivers Council participated in a statewide coalition formed to build public support for the Open Space and Clean Water Bond on the November ballot. Watershed Councils and Land Trusts were provided with material on the bond and were asked to work together and with their local press. The campaign built the visibility of land trusts and watershed councils in their local communities and the Bond passed with overwhelming public support.

Challenges

Rhode Island's rivers and freshwaters are threatened. The major challenges facing the local watershed councils who work to protect them include:

- Assuring that Rhode Island implements policies that will maintain adequate freshwater for future uses. The Rhode Island Water Resources Board has led a statewide study of water allocation. Implementing the recommendations of this study to assure that Rhode Island has a long-term, sustainable water supply and protects the ecological integrity of stream, rivers and wetlands is a priority.
- Implementing municipal Stormwater Phase II programs. This program is a major undertaking for the state's municipalities, but it holds the promise of reducing stormwater inputs to streams and rivers and improving water quality.
- Restoring the ecological integrity of rivers, lakes, ponds, estuaries and their watersheds. We are fortunate to have funds available for restoration projects. But in many watersheds, it is difficult to fund the planning process that is a prerequisite for restoration.
- Working with federal, state and local government on river and watershed protection. Challenges include assuring that government actions are coordinated and directed at priority issues. Watershed councils must be treated as partners and receive pertinent and timely information so they can partner with government actions.
- Targeting protection of open space to preserve natural buffer areas, and protecting water resources, recreational access and cultural and historic sites.

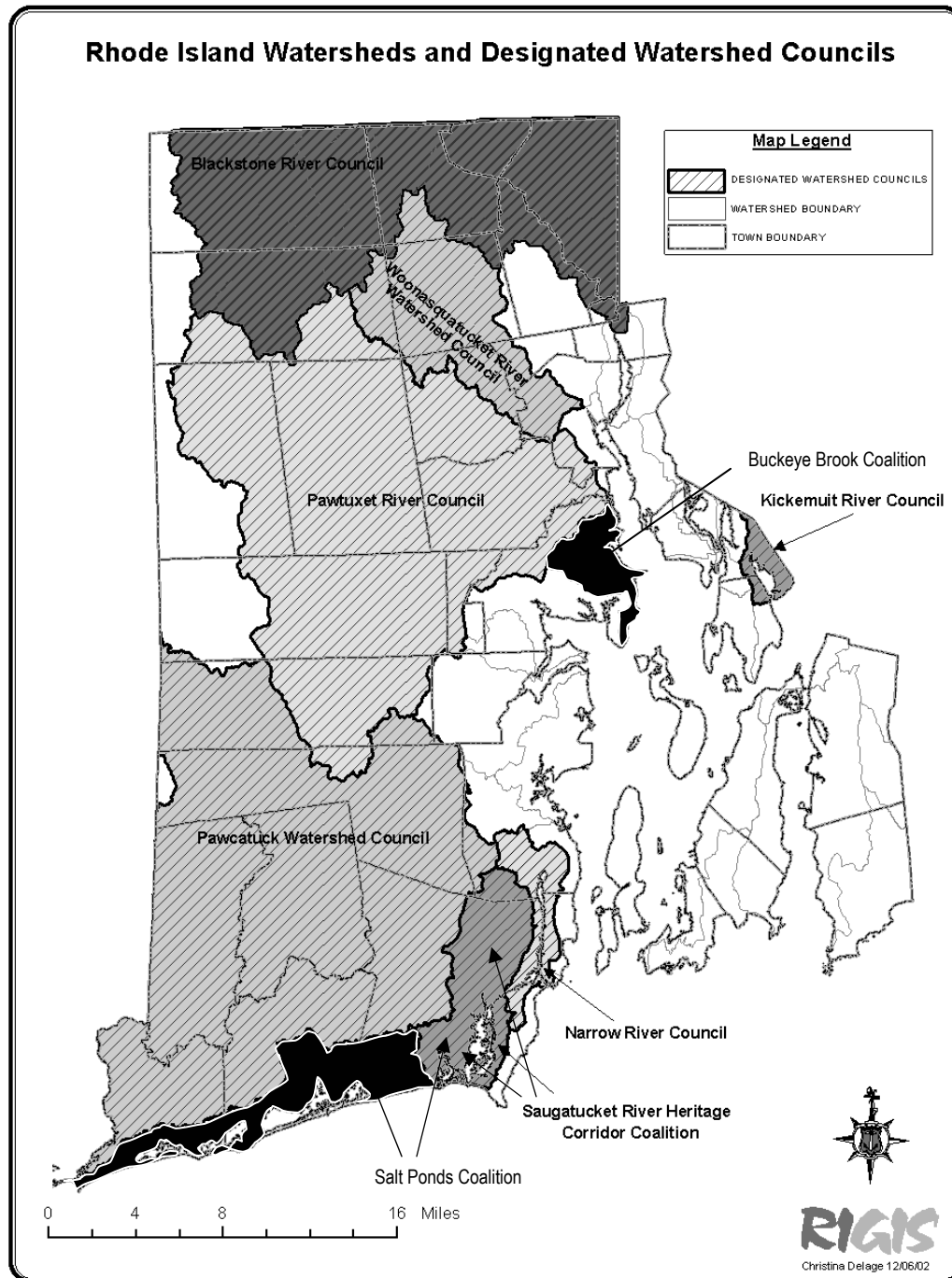


Our thanks to our partners:

Audubon Society of Rhode Island
Barrington Land Conservancy
City of Warwick Sewer Authority
Conservation Law Foundation
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
Institute for Conservation Leadership
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Rhode Island Association of Conservation Commissions
Rhode Island Association of Wetland Scientists
Rhode Island Coastal Institute
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Rhode Island Economic Policy Council
Rhode Island Foundation
Rhode Island General Assembly
Rhode Island Land Trust Council
Rhode Island Monitoring Collaborative
Rhode Island Natural History Survey
Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program
Rhode Island Water Resources Board
Rhode Island's Conservation Districts – Northern, Southern and Eastern
Save the Bay
The Nature Conservancy
Third Sector New England
Town of Narragansett Recreation Department
URI Cooperative Extension
Westerly Land Trust

2004

WATERSHED COUNCIL REPORTS



Blackstone River Watershed Council

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The Blackstone River Watershed Council formed in 1998 under the coordination of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council and became an independent organization in 2005. The Council was recognized by the Rivers Council in 2002. The Board has representatives from each of the nine cities and towns located in the watershed, as well as representatives from local, state and federal environmental and economic agencies. There are 39 members and over 500 volunteers working with the Blackstone Watershed Council.



Organizational issues were a high priority during 2004 as the Watershed Council decided to become independent of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. The Council held several strategic planning sessions during the year and voted on October 23, 2004 to restructure and organize into a self-operating non-profit watershed council. The Watershed Council also worked closely with the Blackstone River Coalition on the Fishable/Swimmable Campaign for the Blackstone River. The Coalition is a virtual organization of watershed organizations working on the Blackstone in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Major accomplishments for 2004 include:

- Removal of tires (over 2,000) and on-going river clean ups throughout the spring and summer.
- Host Rivers Day Awards ceremony honoring Frank Geary and annual scholarships to high school seniors.
- Organize river classroom day (June 15) for approximately 109 students. Board members taught three rotating outdoor training segments touching on river/marsh ecology, storm water runoff, watershed addresses and macroinvertebrate sampling.
- Attend hearings and spoke on behalf of the river at various hearings and public meetings (Diamond Hill Gas Station, Nunes' Parcel Transfer Station proposal, Lonsdale Mill oil sheen, RIDOT bikeway review).
- Participate in the Blackstone Coalition volunteer water quality monitoring program.

The Blackstone River Watershed Council planned to use their \$6,000 Rivers Council grant to update their membership brochure and conduct outreach meetings with municipalities in the watershed. These activities have been slow to start, and the Council has spent only \$525 as of December 31. They were able to leverage a huge investment in the river, reporting \$83,177 in volunteer efforts for the river.

Buckeye Brook Coalition

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The Buckeye Brook Coalition was established in August 2002, and recognized by the Rivers Council as the official Buckeye Brook Watershed Council in 2004. The Coalition is a membership organization governed by elected officers and supported by volunteers. It consists of 90 contacts, including 25 paid memberships and 65 “friends” who are contacted either by email or telephone.

Major watershed issues:

- Impacts of T. F. Green Airport. Runoff from the airport has been affecting Buckeye Brook, and the Coalition is concerned that expansion of the airport will result in further degradation of the Brook.
- Anadromous fish run. Buckeye Brook supports a natural, unobstructed herring run each spring. Assuring that these fish continue to thrive in Buckeye Brook is a major concern.

Major accomplishments for 2004 include:

- The Buckeye Brook Coalition submitted an application and was recognized by the Rivers Council as the Watershed Council for Buckeye Brook.
- Volunteers monitored the fish run throughout April and May.
- Conducted the 7th annual clean up of Buckeye Brook and associated waterways.
- Attended water quality training and tested four locations in the watershed from May through early October.
- Worked with the city of Warwick to install “no dumping” tags on storm drains.
- Attended meetings to advocate for river issues including the Rivers Council, Warwick City Council, Warwick Airport Land Use Commission and the Rhode Island Airport Corporation.
- Hosted an informational booth about the Watershed Council at the New England Saltwater Fishing Show for the second year.
- Met with the Warwick Sewer Authority to review contracts put out to bid in Conimicut West.
- Received an award from the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association.
- Presented an award to the Mayor and the Warwick City Council for their support and work to protect and preserve the environmental integrity of Buckeye Brook.
- Attended the first annual Environmental Awareness Day at Narragansett Beach.
- Led a historical tour of Buckeye Brook.
- Actively participated in the Greenwich Bay Special Area Management Plan and provided mentoring to the citizens group, encouraging them to become a watershed council.
- Helped the city of Warwick revise the Warwick Code of Ordinances for the protection of Buckeye Brook (passed at Warwick City Council on December 13, 2004).
- Started the Buckeye Brook web site.

As a newly recognized watershed council, the Buckeye Brook Coalition was not eligible for a grant in 2004.

Kickemuit River Council

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The Kickemuit River Council is an all volunteer, non profit 501(c)(3) representative organizations founded in 1973. The Kickemuit River Council was recognized by the Rivers Council in 2001. Council membership includes approximately 350 families and 10 organizations or neighborhoods. The Council is composed of voting members from the organizations in the salt water portion of the Kickemuit. Each organization sends up to three voting members. The Council is supported by grants, donations and fundraisers.



Major river and watershed issues include:

- Groundwater contamination in the vicinity of 560 Metacom Avenue.
- Pollution from transient boaters who are not familiar with pump out facilities.
- Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal (LNG). The Watershed Council opposes siting the LNG facility in Fall River and Providence.
- Pollution from the Brayton Point Power Station.
- Excess nutrient levels in the Kickemuit River.
- Blue crab restoration.

Major accomplishments for 2004 include:

- Completed the “Blue Tab Project.” The project identified homes that were discharging wastewater to the storm sewers. This project helped the towns fulfill the new stormwater regulations.
- Completed a review of sewer permits. Identified nine homes that were not tied into the municipal sewers.
- Educated residents about pumpout facilities.
- Wrote an Amicus brief to support EPA’s permit for Brayton Point. Presented the Brief to the Environmental Appeals Board in Washington, DC.
- Development of a septic system educational brochure.
- Planning for blue crab restoration project.

The Kickemuit Watershed Council \$6,000 grant was used for:

- Organizational strengthening (\$3,400) including development of a membership brochure and website, purchase and installation of a plaque for a raccoon gate, expert analysis of the Warren Harbor Management Plan and purchase of aerial photographs.
- Water quality assessment and remediation (\$2,600) including the Blue tab project and fecal coliform monitoring.

Narrow River Preservation Association

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The Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA) is a non profit 501(c)(3) that was founded in 1970 and recognized by the Rivers Council in 2002. NRPA is governed by a Board of Directors representing the three towns in the watershed. NRPA has a part-time administrative assistant and membership of 400 individuals, families and businesses. Their mailing list includes 5500 names. NRPA is supported by membership dues, foundations, government sources and fundraisers.



Major river and watershed issues:

- Protection of the River's biodiversity. Surging population growth in southern Rhode Island and sprawling land development are causing human encroachment on and resultant damage to many habitats of the Watershed. Narrow River has no commercial or industrial enterprises on its banks, thus, the significant sources of contamination to the River are of human derivation.
- Water quality. The River is currently closed to shellfishing, due to high fecal coliform levels. The primary sources of this pollution are faulty septic systems and pet and waterfowl waste. Reopening the River to shellfishing will allow full use and improve the overall quality of the ecological system – enhancing the social, economic and environmental setting for the communities.

The \$6,000 Rivers Council grant supported NRPA's membership program which included:

- Database – data has been professionally coded and formatted for mailings. Resident lists have been incorporated into the database, to permit NRPA a larger pool for membership solicitation.
- Brochure – NRPA has updated and reprinted its membership brochure.
- Membership drive - a 5,500 piece mailing was developed and sent at the end of August. The membership solicitation included two premiums – one from Damon Hardware and one from Buckley Oil – both of which were intended to encourage people to join NRPA. To date, 334 new members have joined from this mailing and \$20,039 has been generated.
- A fall phon-a-thon was held at Washington Trust to do further follow-up.
- An *Adopt-a-River* business membership program is being developed now to be launched early next year and it is expected that the remaining grant funds will be used for the postage and printing related to this mailing.

Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council

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The Pawtuxet River Authority (PRA) is a nonprofit corporation which was chartered by the legislature in 1972. It is a 501(c)(3) with no paid staff. The PRA was designated by the Rivers Council in 2001 as the Pawtuxet River Watershed Council with stipulation that the PRA would broaden mission and board membership to encompass the entire watershed. Board members represent five of the ten municipalities in the watershed. Legislation was introduced in 2002 to broaden representation on board. The PRA is supported principally by municipalities and grants.

Major accomplishments for 2004 include:

- Acquisition of a major textile dam at Harris Village Coventry. The PRA plans to maintain and improve this dam to preserve Harris Pond.
- Pursued and resumed negotiations with Howard Street Mill Coventry to finally acquire remaining segment of former Penn Central rail line to complete the PRA two-mile Phenix Harris Riverwalk. As a result, this partially deteriorated mill will be renovated in tasteful living units and the riverwalk and river will be enhanced at no cost to the PRA, state or federal agencies.
- On-going improvements to a river access park and PRA field facility at Veterans Square/Centreville Pond West Warwick.
- On-going pursuit (feasibility study) of the largest anadromous fish passage to date in Rhode Island at Pawtuxet Falls, Pawtuxet Village (study has been completed and issued).
- Collaborated with the Mosshasuck and Woonasquatucket Watershed Councils to design urban river access canoe launches by means of a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation. Each watershed council has achieved complete construction-ready designs and is pursuing funds for construction. The PRA site will be at reclaimed property at the Warwick-Cranston city line.
- Acquired 48 acres of riparian property along the Pawtuxet River in Cranston to be preserved as green open space and passive recreational use.

The PRA targeted their 2004 grant on organizational development. They redesigned their membership brochure and mailed it to approximately 500 former and prospective members. The PRA revived its newsletter, "Newstream," for reissue in spring 2005. The PRA is currently updating and redesigning its web site.

Salt Ponds Coalition

Salt Ponds Coalition
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Charlestown, RI 02813
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www.saltpondscoalition.org



The Salt Ponds Coalition was incorporated in 1986 and merged with the Rhode Island Salt Pond Watchers in 1993. The Coalition is a 501(c)(3) and was recognized by the Rivers Council in 2004. The Coalition has a part-time executive director and is governed by a Board of Directors. The Coalition's total 2003/2004 membership is 466 with an additional 55 individuals receiving the newsletter.

Major watershed issues:

- Water quality. There is no consensus on the health of the Salt Ponds Watershed or any of the individual ponds. Signs that the ecosystems may be in serious trouble include the fact that Green Hill Pond (since 1994) and eastern parts of Ninigret ponds (since 1996) continue to be closed to shellfishing. Water temperatures have risen significantly. The average summer water temperature has increased about 1.5 degrees F in the last 30 years. Large amounts of seaweed have been reported during the summer of 2004 and bacteria levels appear to be increasing.
- Dredging. The Ninigret Pond Habitat Restoration Project does not include dredging of the Ninigret breachway, from the sedimentation basin into the pond, and the eastern end of Ninigret Pond into Green Hill Pond. The total dredging cost is estimated at \$160,000.

Major accomplishments of 2004 include:

- The Coalition became a member of the Rivers Council and the official watershed council for the Salt Ponds watershed, sharing responsibility for Point Judith Pond with the Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition.
- The Salt Pond Watchers completed their twentieth year of water quality testing for the Salt Ponds watershed. Results were published in our newsletter and shared electronically with EPA, DEM, CRMC and URI. Twenty-seven Pond Watchers sampled eight Salt Ponds. Four members of the group completed their twentieth year as volunteer water quality monitors.
- The Ninigret Pond Habitat Restoration Project groundbreaking was held on October 27, 2004. This restoration project will result in the dredging of 40 acres of existing sand shoals, the planting of eel grass and the creation of a sedimentation basin at the base of the breachway. This long overdue project will be instrumental in insuring the long-term health of Ninigret Pond.
- The Salt Ponds Watershed Restoration Project which has been championed by the Coalition is slated to start in early 2005.
- Through the efforts of the Block Island/Green Hill Pond EPA project, the towns of Charlestown, South Kingstown and Block Island are phasing out cesspools within five years and have established inspection programs for septic systems.

As a newly recognized watershed council, the Salt Ponds Coalition was not eligible for a grant in 2004.

Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition

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<http://www.saugatucket.org/>



The Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition (SRHCC) is a volunteer 501(c)(3) organization established in 1994. They were designated by the Rivers Council in 1999 and renewed in 2004. The SRHCC advocates for the Saugatucket watershed and works in partnership with the Salt Ponds Coalition on Point Judith Pond. SRHCC has one part-time director, 110 members and a mailing list with 800 names. This organization started as a coalition of community, civic and neighborhood organizations. They expanded in 2004 to accept individual and family memberships. SRHCC is supported by grants, local fund raisers and memberships. The SRHCC includes representatives from the towns in the watershed.

Major river and watershed concerns:

- Lack of public awareness of the Saugatucket River and its watershed.
- Lack of public access to the river.
- Residential development in the upper watershed.
- Non-point source pollution.
- Delays in completion of the River Walkway in downtown Wakefield.

Major accomplishments in 2004 include:

- Events and activities (well attended annual meeting, river clean ups, membership drive and lecture series).
- Progress toward watershed protection and restoration (implementation of Saugatucket TMDL has resulted in education projects, the Town of South Kingstown had agreed to a multi-year plan to alleviate pollution resulting from the Rose Hill Landfill and to explore ways to reduce stormwater runoff from the Dale Carlia corner section of Wakefield).
- Education (newsletters and development of outdoor classroom for Wakefield Elementary).

The \$6,000 Rivers Council grant was used for the SRHCC's first membership drive, which was very successful. The Watershed Council produced and printed an "interim" membership brochure using existing artwork and copy. They will be meeting in January with a designer to produce a better, more polished brochure. They produced, printed, mailed and distributed two of our three newsletter issues and produced and sent invitations to our October fundraiser.

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

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The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA) was incorporated in 1983 and has had a full time executive director since 1993. WPWA was recognized as the watershed council for the Wood-Pawcatuck in 1999, and this recognition was renewed in 2004. Staff include a full time program director and part-time summer interns. WPWA is governed by a Board of Trustees (volunteer) with 12 members, and a Board of Advisors. There are approximately 90 volunteers who work on WPWA programs. WPWA is a membership organization with approximately 800 paid members from each of the ten Rhode Island and four Connecticut watershed towns, as well as outside the region. The WPWA is supported by member dues and contributions, foundation grants, and federal, state and local government contributions.

Major river and watershed concerns:

- Stream temperature and brook trout habitat preservation. WPWA conducted temperature studies and brook trout habitat studies. These studies relate to minimum stream flows necessary to preserve habitat, which is an important parameter in the water allocation program under development.
- Major land development and public access improvement. Major land development

above our sole-source aquifer, particularly at highway interchange areas, has kept WPWA in the advocacy and policy arenas in our various communities. WPWA continues to work on design and implementation of public access enhancement projects slated for completion over the next two years.

Major accomplishments for 2004 include:

- Recreation and community service programs (source to sea paddle trips, family fun fishing, fly tying, fly fishing, opening day of trout fishing season, Earth Day clean up and trail maintenance).
- Water quality research (study of small dam properties in the Pawcatuck watershed, stream temperature studies, benthic

macroinvertebrate sampling and water quality monitoring in ponds, rivers and streams).

- Education programs (middle school, high school and college/adult).

WPWA's \$6,000 grant was used to develop and implement a replicable annual strategy for ongoing membership development. The process took into account not only the increase in quantity of members, but also the development of a core of increased quality members, defined by engagement, longevity and participation.

Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

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The Woonasquatucket Watershed Council (WRWC) was organized in 1999, and was recognized by the Rivers Council as the Watershed Council for the Woonasquatucket watershed in 2001.

WRWC has a full time executive director with board members representing all the towns in the watershed. They work with community volunteers, and residents actively support their activities but the WRWC does not currently have a membership program or charge membership dues. The WRWC mailing list includes approximately 1500 names. The WRWC is supported by grants, individual donations and local fundraisers.

Major river and watershed concerns:

- Wetland/riparian buffer restoration. WRWC is implementing projects identified through studies conducted through URI and DEM. These projects are complicated by ownership issues and many outreach and coordination steps are required prior to construction.
- Illegal dumping and debris. River cleanups are beneficial and do make a difference both in debris removal and furthering public awareness, but more must be done to address the larger solid waste problem at the source.
- Centredale Manor Superfund site in North Providence. The WRWC will ensure the public has an opportunity to hear and understand all of the technical information that will be used to support EPA's recommendations.
- TMDL development. A priority for the WRWC is to expand its volunteer base to increase our capacity to monitor the River. As development pressures increase throughout the watershed, there is a great need for the WRWC to become more active in land use decisions and stormwater management actions.
- Stormwater.

Major accomplishments in 2004 include:

- Events and activities (river clean ups, park improvements such as playground construction at Donigian Park, launched Citywide Green, canoe trips, greenspace planning, review of land use and zoning and riparian buffer enhancement).
- Watershed protection and riparian restoration.
- Education – (worked with the Community Schools Initiative to develop an after school environmental education program for D'Abate Elementary school students, conducted an environmental education summer program with Joslin Community Center using videography as a tool for helping kids learn environmental messages.).

Out of the \$6,000 grant from the Rivers Council, \$5,000 was used to support two important initiatives for the WRWC: The un-named stream project and advancing wetland/riparian buffer restoration projects through landowner outreach efforts. The remaining \$1,000 was used to purchase computer equipment.



'So – this – is – a – River!'

'The River,' corrected the Rat.

'And you really live by the river? What a jolly life!'

'By it and with it and on it and in it,' said the Rat, 'It's brother and sister to me, and aunts, and company, and food and drink, and (naturally) washing. It's my world, and I don't want any other. What it hasn't got is not worth having, and what it doesn't know is not worth knowing. Lord! The times we've had together! Whether in winter or summer, spring or autumn, it's always got its fun and its excitements.'

From The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

2004
Rhode Island Rivers Council Final Financial Report
Income and Leveraged Support

	Income to Rivers Council	Income Leveraged by Rivers Council and Watershed Councils
Legislative grant	\$52,500	
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association		\$19,213
Woonasquatucket Watershed Council		\$15,894
Kickemuit River Watershed Council		\$10,035
Saugatucket River Watershed Council		\$9,455
Pawtuxet River Watershed Council		N/A
Narrow River Watershed Association		\$1,719
Blackstone River Watershed Council		\$83,177
Rhode Island Rivers Council		\$134,065
TOTAL	\$52,500.00	\$273,558

**2004
Rivers Council Budget**

	In-Kind Contributions (Volunteer time)	RI Foundation	RI Legislature	Grant from Third Sector NE
PERSONNEL				
Salary, Wages, FICA	\$16,436	\$39,000		
Consultants	19,040	5,000		29,000
NONPERSONNEL				
Travel	1,669	1,500		
Supplies	3,151	500	2,000	
Printing/copying		500	2,265	
Annual report			4,000	
Telephone and fax				
Postage		500		
Rent and utilities				
Equipment/supplies				
Conferences	13,619	1000		
Grant to new watershed organizations			1,500	
Grants to recognized watershed councils (reported in detail in following tables)			42,000	
SUBTOTAL	\$53,915	\$48,000	\$51,765	\$29,000
RI Natural History Survey 7% administrative		3,150	735	
TOTAL	\$53,915	\$51,150	\$52,500	\$29,000

**2004
Rivers Council
Watershed Council Grants
Details**

EXPENSES	Grant Expenses	Leverage
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association		
Wages and overhead	\$2,800	
Printing membership brochures	1,821	
Letterhead/envelopes	1379	
Volunteer time		\$773
Membership revenue		2,440
Horace A. Kimball Grant		16,000
TOTAL	\$6,000	\$19,213
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council		
Wages and overhead	\$3,800	
Professional fees	450	
Postage	200	
Computer equipment	1,000	
Supplies	550	
Volunteer time		\$894
NRCS grant		15,000
TOTAL	\$6,000	\$15,894
Kickemuit River Watershed Council		
Membership brochure	\$1,500	
Web site development	1,200	
Plaque for raccoon gate	100	
Expert analysis	100	
Organizational stationery and business cards	200	
Aerial photographs	300	
Stormwater assessment project	1,300	
Fecal coliform monitoring supplies	100	
Refrigerator magnets with information on septic care	400	
Septic brochure	800	
Volunteer time		\$6,035
Grants		4,000
TOTAL	\$6,000	\$10,035

EXPENSES	Grant Expenses	Leverage
Saugatucket River Watershed Council		
Newsletter printing	1,850	
Mailing	1,050	
Initial membership printing	400	
Membership mailing	350	
Design and print membership brochures	2,350	
Volunteer time (550 hours)		\$9,455
TOTAL	\$6,000	\$9,455
Pawtuxet River Watershed Council – funds are not yet expended		
Membership brochure	\$1,800	
Design and print quarterly newsletters	3,000	
Upgrade and maintain email database	1,200	
TOTAL	\$6,000	N/A
Narrow River Preservation Association		
Database cleaning/organization	\$973	
Brochure	703	
Mailing costs	1,113	
Membership event	825	
Program coordination	2,100	
Remaining funds	286	
Volunteer hours		1,719
TOTAL	\$6,000	\$1,719
Blackstone River Watershed Council		
Developing relationship with town planners - salary	\$225	
Salary remaining	3,325	
Meet and greet session – funds remaining	225	
Brochure update and printing – funds expended	300	
Brochure update and printing – funds remaining	1,925	
Volunteer hours		\$83,177
TOTAL	\$6,000	\$83,177

Rivers Council Workplan for 2005
Approved by the Council on 12-8-04
Organized by sections of the enabling legislation

46-28-2. Legislative findings and declaration of public policy.

- (a) Rhode Island needs an affirmative, clearly articulated program to plan for, manage and protect its rivers and watershed resources on an integrated, inter-agency basis.
- (b) Many of the rivers of Rhode Island, and related adjacent land possess outstanding aesthetic and recreational value of present and potential benefit to the citizens of this state. The preservation and protection of these rivers and their immediate environment together with their significant recreational, natural and cultural value is hereby declared to be a public policy. It shall be the policy of the state of Rhode Island to protect these values and to practice sound conservation policies and practices relative thereto. It is also recognized that it is in the public interest to:
 - (1) Preserve open space, natural resources and features, and scenic landscapes;
 - (2) Preserve cultural and historic landscapes and features;
 - (3) Preserve opportunities for recreational use of rivers;
 - (4) Encourage the establishment of greenways, which link open spaces together;
 - (5) Establish a rivers policy consistent with the Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act, chapter 22.2 of title 45 as set forth in section 45-22-2-3(c)
 - (6) Continue the regional and comprehensive planning activities for rivers, water quality and land use conducted by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Rhode Island Department of Administration.
 - (7) Utilize the rivers policy and classification plan and other relevant elements of the state guide plans, plans and programs of state and federal agencies, and watershed action plans to coordinate the activities of the public and private sectors so as to achieve the objectives of this section.
- (c) It is, therefore, essential that a Rhode Island policy be developed so that these purposes may be fulfilled. The general assembly affirms that it must assure the people of this generation and their descendents the opportunity to appreciate aesthetic and utilize the recreational qualities and resources of the state's streams and rivers. To implement these policies is the purpose of this chapter and in furtherance thereof to establish the Rhode Island Rivers Council which will coordinate and oversee the clean up and preservation of the quality of rivers in Rhode Island.

STATUTE	TASKS	WHO	TIMING	PRIORITY
<p>46-28-2. Legislative findings and declaration of public policy. (b) Many of the rivers of Rhode Island .. and related adjacent land possess outstanding aesthetic and recreational value of present and potential benefit to the citizens of this state. The preservation and protection of these rivers and their immediate environment together with their significant recreational, natural and cultural value is hereby declared to be a public policy. It shall be the policy of the state of Rhode Island to protect these values and to practice sound conservation policies and practices relative thereto. (7) Utilize the rivers policy and classification plan and other relevant elements of the state guide plans, plans and programs of state and federal agencies, and watershed action plans to coordinate the activities of the public and private sectors so as to achieve the objectives of this section.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and support updates and/or development of watershed action plans for each watershed. Coordinate with partners, state and federal agencies. Explore fishable/swimmable actions for RI's rivers. Work with DEM, RI DOA, WRB and legislators to identify and or develop public funding opportunities to support action plan implementation by watershed councils. Review policies and regulations to determine if there is a need for proposing policy changes or amendments to regulations that impact local watershed councils' abilities to preserve and protect the rivers and their immediate environment. 	Chair, RIRC (may need new committee) RIRC, Legislative Committee		
<p>46-28-5. Council created. Appointment of members. <i>(See separate hand-out for language on membership post-SOP)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconfigure the RIRC with post-SOP members. Fill positions as terms expire. 	Funding Development Committee	Immediate	1
<p>46-28-6. Officers of the Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elect chair, vice-chair. 	RIRC – nominating committee	June	5
<p>46-28-7. Powers and Duties 46-28-7 (1). To be entitled to ask for and receive from any commission, board, officer, or agency of the state such information, cooperation, assistance, and advice as shall be reasonable and proper in view of the nature of said function.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure funding for the RIRC and watershed councils. 	RIRC, Legislative Committee		

STATUTE	TASKS	WHO	TIMING	PRIORITY
46-28-7 (2). To assess, evaluate and coordinate with federal, regional and state agencies the current programs and policies as they relate to efforts to clean up and preserve rivers and watersheds throughout the state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate on RI Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Coordination Team and advocate for coordination, links to local priorities, development of watershed action plans linked to Bay Plan. Serve on Narragansett Bay Estuary Program steering committee. 	Chair, RIRC	On-going	2
46-28-7 (3) To prepare and recommend a rivers policy for the state of Rhode Island for adoption by the state planning council as part of the state guide plan... Said policy shall be consistent with federal water quality requirements and shall give consideration to development, public or private, which has commenced at the time of the adoption of a rivers policy. Such rivers policy shall treat rivers as ecological systems.	<p>PRINT Phase I update of Rivers Policy and Classification Plan and distribute copies to the RIRC members, watershed councils and state agencies.</p> <p>Phase II updates – develop goals and policies.</p>	<p>Policy Committee</p> <p>Policy Committee</p>	<p>Jan. 05</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	1
46-28-7 (4) To prepare and recommend a plan for the classification of all rivers in the state of Rhode Island for adoption by the state planning council as part of the state guide plan.....The classifications shall identify characteristics of water bodies beyond their quality to reflect their current or potential uses for drinking water sources, agricultural irrigation, industrial processes, including cooling water sources, water-based recreation, aquatic habitat, aesthetic enhancement, and others.				
46-28-7 (5). To make findings and recommendations among state agencies and political subdivisions by participating in administrative proceedings and by reporting to the governor regarding disputes and conflicts on river and watershed issues.				
46-28-7 (6). To make findings and recommendations to state agencies and political subdivisions regarding measures necessary to protect river quality and to promote river uses consistent with the state's river policy and river classification plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate on WRB Water Allocation Implementation Team. Review and comment on DEM policy/regulations and proposals in partnership with watershed councils. 	Chair, RIRC	On-going	

STATUTE	TASKS	WHO	TIMING	PRIORITY
46-28-7 (7) To formally recognize and to provide grants to local watershed councils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop grant making program for 2005. Review grant program from 2004 and recommendations developed from that experience. Develop guidance. Develop grant application. Solicit applications, review and present to the RIRC. Secure legislative funding for grant program. 	Funding/ Development Committee RIRC, Legislative Committee	January 05	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize new councils. Revise application materials based on feedback from recognized councils. Present to the RIRC for approval. Solicit applications from new councils. Review applications and make recommendations to the RIRC. Public hearing. Final approval. 	Funding/ Development Committee	Spring 05	3
46-28-7 (8) To foster public involvement in river planning and decision making processes by: (i) Conducting public education programs about rivers and watersheds (ii) Promoting public access to and use of rivers, as appropriate (iii) Holding informal workshops prior to the adoption of (A) the state's rivers policy (B) the state's river classification plan or any portion thereof (C) the establishment of any local watershed council; and (D) providing technical assistance to local watershed councils to participate in watershed planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend statewide events and speak about the RIRC and watershed councils. 	Watershed Education Committee	On-going	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize a state-wide conference in partnership with the RI Land Trust Council and the RIACC. Invite watershed councils, land trusts, conservation commissions and other interested people. 	Watershed Education Committee	April 2 <i>tentative</i>	1

STATUTE	TASKS	WHO	TIMING	PRIORITY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement Watershed Stewards Program. 	Watershed Education Committee	Spring 05	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a celebration for Rivers Month 2005. 	Funding/Development Committee	June 05	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize technical and organizational workshops and training as appropriate/requested by watershed councils. 	Watershed Education Committee	On-going	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide targeted capacity building for interested watershed councils in partnership with the RI Land Trust Council and the National Parks Service River and Trails Program. 	Chair, RIRC	Begin January 05	1
46-28-7 (9). To report activities, and findings, and recommend programs, policies and proposals to the governor and the general assembly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and comment on legislation relevant to rivers, watersheds and watershed councils during 	Legislative Committee		1
46-28-7 (10). Establish subcommittees as may be needed to carry out the purpose of this chapter;				
46-28-7 (11) To promulgate regulations and procedures as may be needed to issue grants and approve watershed action plans, including rules requiring notice by state or city and town agencies to local watershed councils regarding proposed actions pertaining to projects, developments and activities located wholly or partially within the watershed represented by the local watershed council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop regulations on notice to watershed councils. 	Legislative Committee	Began Nov 04 – completed early 05	1

STATUTE	TASKS	WHO	TIMING	PRIORITY
46-28-9. Annual council report and special reports. (a) The Council shall make an annual report to the governor and the general assembly on or before February 1 of each year. The report shall include a summary of the activities of the council and of each designated local watershed council and a consolidated financial statement of all funds received by and expended by the RIRC during the reporting period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write and produce annual report. • Widely distribute annual report. 	Chair, RIRC	December 04 – January 05.	1
(b) Special reports. The council shall prepare such special reports as may be requested by the general assembly, or either branch thereof, the governor, or as may be determined by the council. (1) Report on taxation of buffers. The council shall in cooperation with DEM, CRMC, DOA, report to the speaker of the house, the president of the senate, and the Governor not later than January 15, 2005 its findings and recommendations with regard to the establishment of riparian and shoreline buffers and the taxation of property included in buffers and shall address the question of whether the valuation of areas included in buffers should be reduced for purposes of taxation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer working group established in 2004 will make report to the RIRC at the December 2004 meeting. 	Chair, RIRC	Due January 15, 05	1
46-28-10 Administrative support and staffing – The water resources board shall be responsible for providing administrative support in carrying out the responsibilities charged to the RIRC; the water resources board, the department of environmental management, and the statewide planning program shall, as appropriate, provide the RIRC staff support as necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the RIRC as “associated function” of WRB. Establish fiscal relationship. • Administrative transition from DOA - WRB 	Chair, RIRC and WRB and DOA	Early 05	3

OTHER PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES				
1. Develop organizational development plan for the RC .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize Cause & Effect report. Develop implementation plan. 	Funding/ Development Committee, RIRC	Early 05	
2. Establish financial tracking system for RIRC grants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish system in Quickbooks. 	Funding/ Development Committee		
3. Identify opportunities to enhance local watershed initiatives and implementation of action plans by developing partnerships and collaborative projects with organizations including the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, RI Land Trust Council, the RI Natural History Survey, the RI Recreation and Park Association (RIRPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore projects that are consistent with the RIRC charge to “coordinating, overseeing and reviewing efforts to improve and preserve the quality of rivers and to develop plans to increase the utilization of river areas throughout the state, and to support and strengthen grassroots watershed organizations as local implementers of the plans.” 	Chair, RIRC	On-going	1

Rhode Island Rivers Council
Workplan 2004 Approved by the Council on 12-10-03
ACCOMPLISHMENTS as of 12-31-04

STATUTE	TASKS	WHO	COMPLETE?
46-28-5. Council created. Appointment of members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill vacant position (Speaker of the House). • Fill positions as terms expire. 	Meg Kerr	
46-28-6. Officers of the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elect chair, vice-chair. 	RIRC	Y
46-28-7. Powers and Duties 46-28-7 (1). To be entitled to ask for and receive from any commission, board, officer, or agency of the state such information, cooperation, assistance, and advice as shall be reasonable and proper in view of the nature of said function. 46-28-7 (2). To assess and evaluate the current programs and policies as they relate to efforts to clean up and preserve rivers throughout the state. 46-28-7 (3) To prepare and recommend a rivers policy for the state of Rhode Island. 46-28-7 (4) To prepare and recommend a plan for the classification of all rivers in the state of Rhode Island.	Complete Phase I update of Rivers Policy and Classification Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUC10 and HUC12 watershed delineation. • CRMC classifications for coastal waters. • Revise classification descriptions reflected in river segment classifications. 	Policy Committee	Y
46-28-7 (3) To prepare and recommend a rivers policy for the state of Rhode Island.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Phase I update of Plan. 	RIRC	Y
46-28-7.1. Power and duties of the state planning council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State technical committee review, State Planning Council review. • Public hearing. • Adoption by State Planning Council. 	DOA	Y
46-28-7 (3) To prepare and recommend a rivers policy for the state of Rhode Island.	Phase II of Rivers Policy and Classification Plan Update. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing policies. • Review other state policies. • Recommend revisions. 	Policy Committee	ongoing

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STATUTE	TASKS	WHO	COMPLETE?
<p>46-28-7 (5). To make findings and recommendations among state agencies and political subdivisions by participating in administrative proceedings and by reporting to the governor regarding disputes and conflicts on river issues.</p> <p>46-28-7 (6). To make findings and recommendations to state agencies and political subdivisions regarding measures necessary to protect river quality and to promote river uses consistent with the state's river policy and river classification plan.</p>	<p>Represent the RIRC and participate in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special House Commission to study the status of the State's Policy Formulation and Planning for the Environmental Management and Sustainable Economic Development of Rhode Island's Bays and their Watersheds. • Governor's Narragansett Bay and Watershed Planning Commission. 	Meg Kerr, Policy Committee	Y
46-28-7 (7) To formally recognize and to provide grants to local watershed councils.	<p>Develop grant making program for 2003/4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review grant program from 2002/3 and recommendations developed from that experience. • Develop guidance based on "encouraging organizational sustainability." • Develop grant application. • Solicit applications, review and present to the RIRC. 	Marketing/ Development Committee	Y
46-28-7 (7) To formally recognize and to provide grants to local watershed councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and approve budget and grants. 	RIRC	Y
46-28-7 (7) To formally recognize and to provide grants to local watershed councils	<p>Recognize new councils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise application materials based on feedback from recognized councils. • Present to the RIRC for approval. 	Meg Kerr	Y
46-28-7 (7) To formally recognize and to provide grants to local watershed councils	<p>Solicit applications from new councils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public notice. • Notify municipalities. • Notify watershed organizations. <p>Review applications and make recommendations to the RIRC.</p>	Marketing/ Development Committee	Y
46-28-7 (7) To formally recognize and to provide grants to local watershed councils	<p>Approve new watershed councils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public hearing. • Final approval. 	RIRC	Y

Rhode Island Rivers Council
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STATUTE	TASKS	WHO	COMPLETE?
46-28-7 (8) To foster public involvement in river planning and decision making processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend high profile statewide events and speak about the RIRC and watershed councils. 	Meg Kerr	Y
46-28-7 (8) To foster public involvement in river planning and decision making processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a celebration for Rivers Month 2004. 	Marketing/ Development Committee	Y
46-28-7 (8) To foster public involvement in river planning and decision making processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a marketing strategy for the RIRC and watershed councils. 	Marketing/ Development Committee	Y
46-28-7 (8) To foster public involvement in river planning and decision making processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capture and promote the broad range of successes of watershed organizations and their partners. 	Meg Kerr	Y
46-28-7 (8) To foster public involvement in river planning and decision making processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize a state-wide conference in partnership with the RI Land Trust Council and the RIACC. Invite watershed councils, land trusts, chamber of commerces and other interested people. 	Meg Kerr	Y
46-28-7 (9). To report activities, and findings, and recommend programs, policies and proposals to the general assembly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute annual report to legislature. 	Meg Kerr	Y
46-28-7 (9). To report activities, and findings, and recommend programs, policies and proposals to the general assembly.	Review and comment on legislation relevant to rivers, watersheds and watershed councils during 2004. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop criteria for review. WRB track legislation. 	Legislative Committee	Y
46-28-8. Local Watershed Councils The RiversCouncil shall establish and recognize local watershed councils to implement the rivers policy as adopted in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and set forth in the state guide plan.	Develop regular training programs for watershed councils in organizational sustainability and development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop training curriculum. Seek funding for training in partnership with the Institute for Conservation Leadership, River Network, the RI Land Trust Council and others. Partner with other organizations on related training. 	Professional Development Committee	Y
46-28-8. Local Watershed Councils	Encourage mentoring relationships between watershed councils.	Professional Development Committee	N

Rhode Island Rivers Council
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS as of 12-31-04

STATUTE	TASKS	WHO	COMPLETE?
46-28-8. Local Watershed Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host training on “Making Optimal Use of the Clean Water Act” with the Conservation Law Foundation, RI Sea Grant, EPA, DEM, URI CE. 	Meg Kerr	Y
46-28-9. Annual council report. The Council shall make an annual report to the governor and the general assembly on or before February 1 of each year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write and produce annual report. 	Meg Kerr	Y
Administrative Functions Strengthen the RIRC and the coalition of watershed councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a 5-year fundraising plan that will enable the RIRC to support 1.5 staff, office and administrative functions. Create a 5-year plan for supporting watershed councils. 	Development/ Marketing Committee	Created a 2-year plan
Develop strong relationship with the RI Natural History Survey as fiscal agent to the RIRC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet regularly with Lisa Gould, ED Natural History Survey. 	Meg Kerr	Y
Research organizational models that will support the quasi-government function of the RIRC, yet allow fund-raising flexibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the organizational structure of the RI Rural Development Council – an organization created by state statute, but functioning as a non-profit. 	Meg Kerr	Y
Work with DEM, DOA, Senate Policy Office on revisions to the RC enabling statute.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions will include (but not be restricted to) 1) Separation of Powers, 2) strengthening DEM’s mandate for watershed management, and 3) strengthening watershed councils interactions with municipal government. 		Y